Parwan Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Parwan from January 2002 - June 2011: \$91.6 million

Estimated population: 590,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of

Afghanistan 2008-2009) Capital: Chaharikar

Note: U.S.-led PRT based out of Bagram



The province of Parwan is situated on the Salang Road, the main route from Kabul to the northern provinces. The province sits at the base of the Hindu Kush mountains and the Parwan river plain and receives significant water and snowmelt from the mountains. Farmers cultivate cereal crops, fruits, and vegetables in the fertile valley and often sell their goods in the Kabul market. In addition, the Salang River is famous for its fish, and many tourists come from Kabul to Parwan's riverside restaurants.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID focuses on preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved agricultural inputs, irrigation, veterinary services, market information, and training.

- Identify appropriate agricultural technologies to increase agricultural productivity in areas subject to seasonal drought and high risks of land degradation, deforestation or loss of biodiversity
- Establish demonstration plots of wheat using water conservation technologies in Charikar, Bagram and Jabal-ul-Siraj
- Provide training in irrigation and agricultural production technologies to staff members of MAIL, universities, and agricultural vocational schools
- Engage an Afghan vineyard and integrated pest management specialist to conduct technical training for beneficiaries with new practical and theoretical methods
- Establish linkages among cooperative, Bagram Fruit Company, and international buyers
- Deliver training for Parwan farmers and Bagram juice and raisin plant staffs and for certification of the company
- Establish a farm service center
- Provide technical assistance and training to the province lead farmers, Afghan government extension staff, and area farmers



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- Train Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Improve the quality of grape harvests through vineyard trellising
- Train farmers on the improved method of raisin solar drying
- Apply the grape value chain approach to improve the product quality, grading, packing, packaging, precooling, transporting, and marketing of grapes in new international markets
- Train farmers on the improved method of apricot sulfur drying

- Brought 4,000 hectares of land under improved natural resource management and trained eight staff of the provincial Agriculture Department
- Conducted a rangeland survey
- Contributed to the development of a rangeland law
- Created 91 full-time jobs
- Created linkages between raisin cooperative and international buyer resulting in the sale, processing, and delivery of 40 MT of fair-trade raisins to the United Kingdom in 2010 and similar orders in 2011
- Distributed seed and fertilizer vouchers to more than 18,000 famers
- Established 16 private full-service AgDepot farm stores that provide agriculture supplies and services to support key legal crops and improve animal health
- Established 250 demonstration plots of forage crops and trained 250 farmers and five extension agents in forage crop production technologies in Jabalul Siraj, Saidkhel, Central Parwan, Shinwari and SiaGard districts
- Established 28 veterinary field units, trained 31 para-veterinarians, and provided vaccinations and medicines for livestock
- Established 28 woodlots, four nurseries, and 49 orchards
- Established the Parwan Raisin Producers Cooperative
- Established two milk collection centers, which were handed over to farmer cooperatives in Safyan and Jabul Saraj districts
- Increased Afghanistan's export potential by sending 2,000 kg of grapes to India for market testing and product promotion, with some lots selling at more than double their production cost
- Institutionalized three rangeland management technologies within MAIL
- Planted 250,000 trees and cuttings and 1,310 rootstocks
- Provided agricultural training and established 14 market collection centers to strengthen commercial agricultural opportunities, increase farmers' agricultural knowledge, and promote direct linkages between food brokers and farmers
- Provided technical assistance to promote improved raisin production, which has significantly improved quality control
- Purchased 4,000 chicks and equipment for a poultry farm, which, in turn, raised about 200,000 chickens that were distributed to farm owners
- Rehabilitated one raisin processing factory and constructed five collection centers in five villages in Charikar City
- Rehabilitated six canals and two dams to provide a reliable water supply to farmers
- Trained 27 Afghan government officials from the MAIL, the National Environmental Protection Agency, and other related organizations on community-based natural resource management practices
- Trained 300 grape producers in vineyard management, soil and water management, integrated pest
 management, harvest and post-harvest management; distributed various inputs including hand-rotary
 dusters, raisin drying mats, and trellising



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- Trained 333 farmers in Ghorband Valley on proper apricot drying techniques using the improved methods of sulfur drying
- Trained 51 farmers on trellis installation
- Trained 576 individuals on orchard establishment and forestry management
- Trained more than 360 Kuchi and non-Kuchi leaders in conflict resolution
- Trained nine grape and raisin traders in marketing skills & post-harvest management
- Trellised 10.2 Ha of existing vineyards in 51 vineyards to improve quality of grape harvests

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of government services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

Summary: USAID supports democracy and governance in Parwan Province through activities including legislative strengthening, electoral support, justice sector reform, media, and civil-society development.

Current Activities:

- Support USAID-established community cultural centers that carry out legal and women's rights awareness programs.
- Provide capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Provide training to the provincial council, which improves professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Support independent radio, including a women's radio station
- Provide assistance to improve the ability of the mayor and municipal staff to respond to citizen needs and to provide essential public services such as power, water, sanitation, safe roads, and waste management
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations
- Support accountable municipal governance, improved municipal delivery of public services, and improved generation and management of municipal revenue in provincial capitals
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop
- Develop the human and institutional capacity of the courts, increase access to justice particularly for women, and develop and implement a case tracking system including professional training for judges and administrators on the system

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 38 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 34 sitting
 judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for 31 judicial
 candidates, providing judges access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts



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- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code
- Built three courts and renovated a district administration building in Shinwari District
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, thereby making information accessible even to those who cannot read
- Hosted town hall meetings to provide an opportunity for citizens to speak directly to their elected and nonelected officials
- Promoted public participation in governance through civic education for more than 364,990 citizens in advance of the 2004-2005 elections
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers
- Opened a women's market in Charikar, where women entrepreneurs sell handicrafts, tomato paste, dry fruit, perfumes, and other items marketed to female shoppers
- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided capacity building training to three civil-society organizations
- Supported independent radio, including a women's radio station, through grants and technical assistance
- Awarded 25 grants
- Trained 403 civil servants in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

Summary: USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes a legal economy in Parwan Province through expanding access to modern banking services and telecommunications.

Current Activities:

- Support the Ministry of Finance's (MoF) provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the Jalalabad training hub, to conduct budgeting training programs and provide technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates
- Support recent installation of automation at the Parwan Mustofiat, enabling the revenue department to automatically generate reports

- Facilitated and launched the Afghan government effort to connect provincial government offices with Kabul through broadband technology (this Government Communications Network facilitates active, transparent governance)
- Installed five district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public



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- Promoted economic related information and data collection activities to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB)
 regional economic research and analytical functions introduced in DAB zone offices
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided additional communications technology and training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors)
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Parwan Mustofiat, which has
 dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue
 reports, and uploading into the consolidated MoF Financial Management System
- Automated the Parwan Mustofiat, enabling the revenue department to automatically generate reports
- Trained 49 Parwan Province officials in effective planning and budget estimate preparation to increase their participation in the national budget process by developing inputs that better reflect local needs and priorities
- Reorganized land titling documentation at the Makhzan court register with new cost-efficient technology so that Afghans can now easily access their property documents (before the reorganization, the land administration office was unable to properly document land transfers, provide proof of ownership documents, or prevent the registration of fraudulent deeds)
- Supported 66 small and medium enterprises through business skills and business management training
- Funded the construction of the Kohi Safi Market to promote private-sector development
- Established a training center at the Chaharikar Municipal Building, providing business skills workshops for small and medium enterprises
- Established an Employee Assistance Center, which led to lower unemployment rates in the province
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Disbursed more than \$330,000 in medium-sized loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation
- Supported recent installation of automation at the Parwan Mustofiat, enabling the revenue department to automatically generate reports
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Parwan Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher training and increased availability of primary school textbooks; improve the quality of higher education; and improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and job training.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Parwan Province through three national education projects. USAID has provided radio-based teacher support programs, provided support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, provided literacy and vocational schools training, printed textbooks, trained education faculty professors, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.



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- Support 55 community-based school classes in three districts to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- Provide radio-based teacher support programs to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Offer the 18-month program in literacy and productive skills to youth and adults
- Train community leaders and village teachers in community mobilization, program management, and functional literacy skills
- Fund remedial education for girls
- Construct Charikar Teacher Training College to build a corps of professional teachers able to provide quality education to Parwan's children
- Work with the faculty of education to improve the teaching skills of professors through training in pedagogy, subject knowledge, computer literacy, English, institutional development, leadership, management, administration, professional attitudes, and teacher standards
- Continue sponsoring education opportunities for professors in Afghanistan and abroad
- Construct a Faculty of Education at the university

Accomplishments:

- Integrated 15 community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Established 648 literacy centers
- Constructed 29 schools
- Printed nearly 2.7 million textbooks
- Established a Professional Development Center at the university
- Introduced a teacher standards program and a standards working committee for assessment and validation at the university
- Supported a development-focused adult literacy program to educate 2,400 residents who did not have the
 opportunity to pursue a formal education under the Taliban

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Parwan Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products and provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in six sentinel sites
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS
- Train community health worker trainers and community health supervisors, and orient new nongovernment organization staff, to expand the use of post-partum family planning



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Accomplishments:

- Trained 700 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure to create legal economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program in Parwan Province focuses on the rehabilitation of roads, power, water and sanitation facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Maintain the Gulbahar to Baharak Road and some 170 km of provincial roads to facilitate travel and reduce vehicle operating costs
- Strengthen the capacity of the Provincial Road Maintenance Unit of the Ministry of Public Works to manage road maintenance utilizing Afghan contractors
- Improve health and sanitation through the construction of wells and design of gravity-fed, piped-water supply systems eventual construction
- Design a new micro-hydro facility and the rehabilitation of an existing one in Salang District to provide power to 2,500 local residents

Accomplishments:

- Rehabilitated the sanitation system in Kohi Safi District, improving hygiene and sanitation for Parwan residents
- Boosted energy output through the conversion of 20 water mills into hydro-electric plants
- Constructed the Mahgir, Akhtachi, and Matak dams to increase access to water supply, and improve the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Rehabilitated the Jabal Saraj to Gulbahar District Road and the Chaharikar to Gulbahar Provincial Road, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

- Provide carpentry classes for working-aged males from Sia Gird District
- Provide tailoring classes



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- Provide school supplies and furniture
- Rehabilitate sanitation facilities and protective structures at one school in Shinwari District and sanitation facilities and sports facilities at two schools in Sia Gird District
- Support community efforts to rehabilitate small infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, and canals through community stabilization grants in five villages
- Provide toolkits to the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to promote improved fruit drying techniques

- Provided health and hygiene education classes for 1,000 women and 2,350 children in 12 communities
- Held workshops on proposal writing, communications, project planning, and report writing for provincial and district officials and line directorate staff
- Provided support to communities to construct or rehabilitate small infrastructure projects such as roads, canals, and footpaths through 11 community stabilization grants and three direct implementation activities
- Assisted the Department of Education by providing school furniture to a school in Shinwari District
- Provided winterization kits to 365 refugee families at the Beni Warsak Land Allocation Scheme in Baghram District
- Empowered 20 women and disabled people through tailoring training in Bagram District
- Provided sports equipment and schools supplies to 12 schools in Sia Gird District
- Helped 30,700 people, who have benefited through community-level labor intensive programs that improved city infrastructure, supported community development priorities, and offered temporary employment